

The primary mission of Iowa's state forests is to demonstrate sound forest management under the principles of multiple use and sustainability. We promote land stewardship, habitat development and protection, outdoor recreation, and the production of wood products. Special care is taken to preserve wildlife den trees, sensitive and unique habitats, and scenic views. You can see many examples of our forest management as you travel throughout YRSF. Recreation of the native oak-hickory forest is a major emphasis.

YRSF is one of the largest outdoor recreation areas in northeast Iowa. Managed by the Forestry Bureau of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, YRSF encompasses 8,500 acres of upland hardwood and coniferous forests.

The original 1,500 acre parcel was first purchased in 1935. In 1949 this parcel was transferred to the National Park Service to become Effigy Mounds National Monument.

Yellow River State Forest (YRSF) in northeast Iowa is located in the driftless area that escaped the glaciers during the most-recent ice ages. The result was extremely hilly terrain now known as the 'Little Switzerland' of Iowa.

YELLOW RIVER

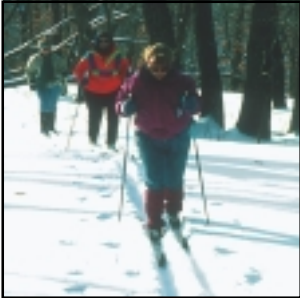
RECREATION ON THE STATE FOREST

TRAILS

The Paint Creek Unit has over 25 miles of hiking, bicycling, and equestrian trails. In winter, some trails are open to snowmobiles and cross country skiers. Our designated trails are mowed and signed. Horses and bicycles are required to stay on designated trails. Motorized recreational vehicles are prohibited on all trails.

HUNTING AND FISHING

Except for the campgrounds, the entire state forest is open for hunting. Consult DNR regulations for seasons, limits, and other rules. YRSF is a popular area for hunting wild turkey, deer, upland birds, squirrel, and other game species. Two cold water streams flow through the Paint Creek Unit providing trout fishing opportunities. These trout streams are stocked throughout the spring and summer by the DNR Fisheries Bureau.



ROGER HILL

CAMPING

Campgrounds are located in the 4,500 acre Paint Creek Unit of YRSF. Our 176 campsites are open year-round and will accommodate tents, trailers, and RV's. Of these campsites 34 are equestrian. Remote sites are also available to backpacking enthusiasts. All sites are primitive, with no running water or electricity. Picnic tables, fire rings, and pit vault latrines are available for your use. Firewood for campfires may be purchased locally, or cut from dead and downed trees - no standing trees, dead or alive, may be felled for firewood without a permit. The campgrounds are administered by the State Park Bureau and a self-registration fee is charged.

OTHER INFORMATION

A pay phone is available at the information kiosk located just west of the headquarters and sawmill. Drinking water is also available, as well as maps and brochures of interest to forest visitors. Additional information and maps are available on our website, www.iowadnr.com/forestry/yellowriver.html.

NEARBY HISTORICAL AND OUTDOOR SITES

- Effigy Mounds National Monument
- Fish Farm Mounds State Preserve
- Great River Road
- Pikes Peak State Park
- Backbone and White Pine Hollow State Forests and
- The Mighty Mississippi

Federal regulations prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, or disability. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility as described above, or if you desire further information, please write to: Director, DNR, Wallace State Office Building, 502 East Ninth Street, Des Moines, IA 50319-0034.



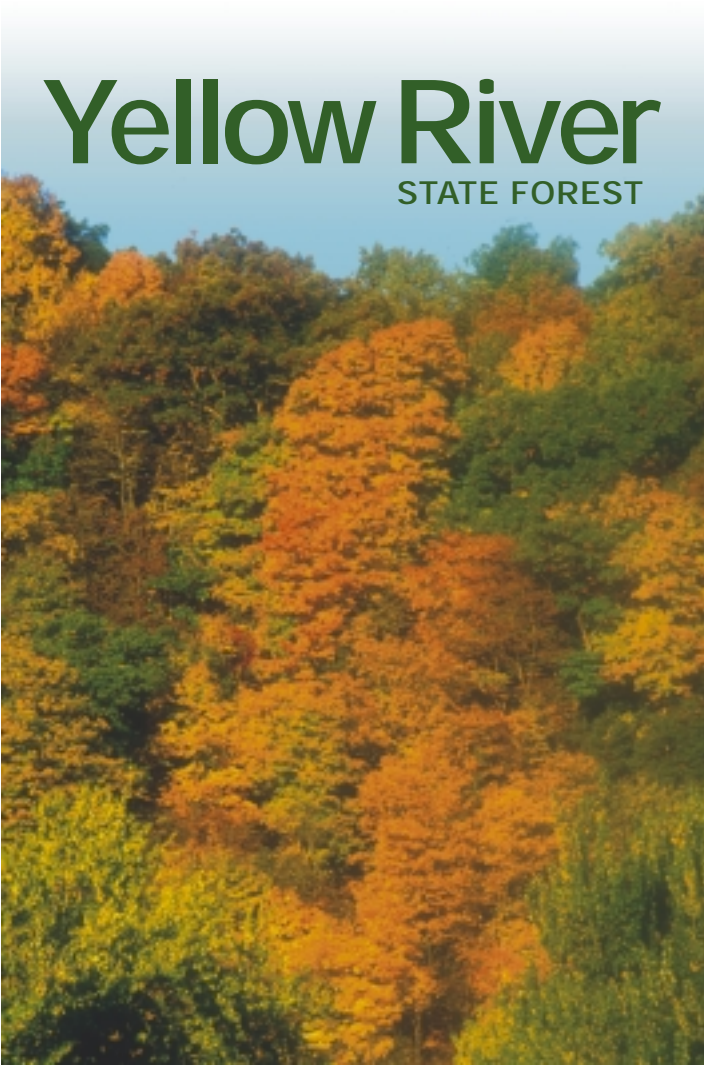
The Yellow River State Forest is administered by the Bureau of Forestry, Division of Conservation and Recreation, Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

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Paint Creek Trails Map



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

